

CBS EVENING NEWS
24 January 1985

CP06>U.S./NAZI WAR>RATHER: As atrocious as Reder's crimes were, they paled <
>CRIMINAL>beside horrors committed by the Nazi known as the 'angel
of death,' Dr. Joseph Mengele. This war criminal has
eluded justice. But new attention has been focused on
him, and it concerns the possibility that he was arrested
and freed by, among others, Americans 38 years ago. Bruce
Morton reports.

MORTON: This is Auschwitz in Poland, the most notorious
killing ground in Europe. In this concentration camp,
where so many died, one man who lived was infamous. Dr.
Joseph Mengele reportedly personally chose 400,000 who
would die, 150,000 children, performed medical experiments
on children, especially twins. PETER SOLMOGYI
(concentration camp survivor): Little kids died from
experiments. MARK BERKOWITZ (concentration camp
survivor): Made it so that I would be able to watch my
mother go through the gas chamber.

MORTON: After the war, Mengele disappeared, owned a house
in Argentina, was briefly photographed in Paraguay. Using
the Freedom of Information Act, the Nazi-hunting Simon
Weisenthal Center got a document suggesting U.S. troops
might have arrested Mengele in Vienna in 1947. The
Pentagon disputes that. MICHAEL BURCH (Pentagon
spokesman): Nothing that we've been able to come up with
indicates that he was ever in our possession.

MORTON: The center got other documents suggesting that in
1962 someone using the name Joseph *Menke, someone who
might have been Mengele, had applied for a visa to travel
from Buenos Aires to Canada. Canada is investigating.
BRIAN MULRONEY (Canadian prime minister): I can think of
nothing more offensive for any Canadian than to, to think
that the government of Canada might inadvertently have
been a party to his seeking to find refuge here.
RABBI MARVIN HIER (Simon Weisenthal Center): The only way
we'll really know if there was a United States connection
in the case of Dr. Joseph Mengele is with a vigorous
investigation.

MORTON: The U.S. government has four more documents it
has not yet released, one on security grounds, three
because the involve a foreign country.
SEN. ALFONSE D'AMATO (R-N.Y.): The American public has a
right to know.

MORTON: The State Department today referred questions to
the Justice Department. The Justice Department said the
whole question was under review. Other officials say
maybe it shouldn't be up to Justice, maybe the National
Archives is the place to search for clues or the Army's
files or the CIA's. It is an old, cold trail, but there
are reasons for pursuing it. SOLMOGYI: He should be
brought to justice.

MORTON: Bruce Morton, CBS News, Washington. <